

opponents and neutral testimony. So I will speak in the neutral. As a representative of the 16th District, I've had a lot of talk to my farmers about this bill. And I think I want to get it in the record as to what their feeling is about the bill. The State of Nebraska is giving ConAgra a lot in this bill. But my farmer friends are willing to also donate, free of charge, trucks, road guards and everything it takes to help them move, if they don't care to stay. They feel that with this lousy federal farm policy we had, and they raised all this crop at below their cost, ConAgra's bottom line just went up year after year after year, and they don't believe that they are getting much benefit out of this tax bill. This is neutral testimony, incidentally. (Laughter.) Then this spring, when we had our lumber association meeting, we had several dealers who were very, very concerned. ConAgra bought Wheeler Farm Supply, and the S&S Farm Stores, moved them out in these rural towns, very, very unfair competition. And now we're going to give them another little lever so they will even be more unfair. We would like a break in our industry, too. We're just struggling, struggling, struggling. We're paying what little taxes we have left to pay. And I'd like to see my sales tax exempted and so forth and so on. I think you need to know exactly what the farmers are feeling. We've heard of a lot of Chapter 1, which is Omaha, Nebraska, with several different zip codes. But really rural Nebraska, I think, is going to take it in the shorts with a bill like this. One example, Tekamah, Nebraska got an S&S Store, and I don't want to knock it down too hard, but the contributions they gave, as I've been told, is the Coast to Coast Store, shortly thereafter, filed bankruptcy. S&S, you understand, they are not just a farm store, they sell everything. The hardware store, that is 105 years old, they failed, 25 to 30 percent of their business went down the street to S&S who leases some property and pays good rent on it, I'm sure, hires two or three people. When they make a little money, they pack it up in a suitcase and drag it out of Tekamah. Dick's Western Wear, who has a business in Omaha, but their home is Tekamah, his boot sales, his clothing sales, everything is down due to the economy, I'm sure, but he's also losing business to them. So I don't know why you feel they need a great, great big break. I'm in favor of economic development, but let's do it for more than just one real narrow group. They fought and fought yesterday on that LB 270. I think it was Senator Miller said, well, we're going to give the farm away, let's go ahead and give it away, we better hurry up...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.